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C O N F I D E N T I A L LAHORE 000101

E.O. 12958: DECL: 5/27/2019

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SUBJECT: ATTACK ON RESCUE 15 AND ISI IN LAHORE -- SITREP 2

REF: LAHORE 100

CLASSIFIED BY: Bryan Hunt, Principal Officer, Consulate Lahore,
U.S. Department of State.
REASON: 1.4 (b), (d)

¶1. (C) According to press reports, as of 16:00 the May 27 car blast that demolished the Rescue 15 headquarters and damaged a wing of the Inter Services Intelligence (ISI) building killed 45 people, including several of military rank, and injured 292. Although media have focused exclusively on the Rescue 15 building, post contacts believe that the perpetrators intended to target the ISI building. No American citizens are believed to be among the dead or injured.

¶2. (SBU) Media reported that the police arrested four suspects, including one terrorist on the roof of an adjacent building. No groups have come forward to take credit for the attack.

¶3. (C) Police contacts confirmed that the car bomb blasted a 22-foot crater, the largest terrorist explosion in Lahore to date. The detonation shattered windows at the nearby Avari Hotel. American guests at the Avari told conoff that the hotel staff moved them to rooms without street-side windows.

¶4. (C) An Islamabad-based Legatt team plans to arrive in Lahore on the evening of May 27. Post also helped coordinate the delivery of emergency supplies from consulate general stocks and UNICEF.

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